

"Be of Good Courage"

It is not at all the purpose of an intervening providence to supplant those elements of manhood which are essential to the growth of character. Indeed, the building of character is the supreme work of providence. Everything else must be subordinate to this great end of existence, and herein we read the answer to much in our human experience which otherwise is full of perplexity. We ask a multitude of questions about the happenings in our lives, the episodes of pain, or loss, or sorrow; and sometimes we ask these questions complainingly, petulantly, as if there was no such thing as an Infinite Wisdom and an Infinite Love behind all these things. How often we need the exhortation God gave Joshua to "Be of good courage." Now courage implies faith, and so we have the opening up of the infinite resources in our behalf. The Lord had just told Joshua that "not a man should be able to stand before him all the days of his life." Beside his own valiant soldiers he was going to have on his side the celestial armies, and yet with all these splendid promises ringing in his ears it was needful for the Lord to tell him to be of good courage. When the frowning front of war beset him, he was not to lose sight of the promises, he was not to lose sight of God. In this constancy of faith he was to be invincible. God with all his resources was on his side; how could he fail? "Be of good courage." There was good reason. We may be tempted to say that with equally good reason we could also show courage in the difficult and perilous times of our life battle. If the Lord should come to us and audibly promise the invariable issue of victory. But has he not already done so? Has he not pledged the "all things" to him that believeth. Has he not promised to be with us even unto the end? Did Joshua have any more explicit and full promise of triumph over all foes? Is not the Lord on our side if we are his children, and trust in him? Will not all things work together for good to them that love him? Joshua had not so many nor such precious promises as we have, and whether we abide in poverty or sickness, or have sore battle with foes and fears, there is such a victory promised to our faith and courage as will make heaven ring with joy. Oh thou, beset with the troubles and sorrows of the earthly pilgrimage, "be of good courage, and he will strengthen thy heart."

The Outlook in China.

The anti-foreign sentiment in China is being fostered and aroused by a secret society known as "The Boxers." It has attained alarming proportions and seemingly has the sympathy of the government. Seventy-five Christians were recently murdered by them,

many of them being burned alive. The movement seeks to stop the incoming tide of western civilization. It will fail as heathenism failed in the old Roman empire to stay the progress of Christianity. According to the reports in the daily papers the situation is alarming. The murder of the German Consul was reported a few days ago, but thus far the report has not been confirmed. Warships are hastening to the scene, threatening clouds seem to be gathering over the sky of the empire, and daily we may expect to hear of a conflict of which none may venture to limit the range or conjecture the final results. Of this we may be sure: it will end in a triumph for Christianity, for no power on earth can stay its onward march.

Two years ago the emperor resigned under the pressure of the queen regent who is not favorable toward western civilization, but the Christian schools of China are increasing in power, and the nation is being honeycombed with western thought. China will soon be revolutionized. At the recent Ecumenical Conference in New York, Hudson Taylor, the marvelous leader of the China Inland Mission said it was his great prayer that he might live twenty years longer that he might see *Christianity the dominant religion of China*. Such words from such a man are inspiring. Heathenism may struggle in dying, but die it must before the light of the gospel.

Go Thou and Do Likewise

Sister Ida Myers, Nevada, Mo., sends a short communication for next week's paper, and along with it the following letter, making special mention of the Educational number of the EVANGELIST:

I can not send these few lines without just a word. The EVANGELIST, tho always welcome, has been such a treat to us the past few weeks. How many times we have looked into those faces that we can not hope to meet in this world. Brother J. A. Miller and wife, how their faces seem to talk to us; and how Sister Miller's pen does talk to us especially in the Educational number. Indeed their faces talked so well and kindly to us that each year we will deny ourselves some for Ashland College.

Then those classes of our young people, how proud we felt of them. God grant that their lives may be lives of usefulness and consecrated to the Master's work. It was a pleasure to us to see the pictures of all the teachers in the college.

This letter is encouraging both to the management of the school and the publishing house. The Educational number of the EVANGELIST was sent out in the faith and hope that it might appeal to all who have near at heart the cause of Ashland College and higher education in the Brethren church. It is a pleasure to note that the effort has not been in vain. The portraits of the members of the Faculty and of the Bible and graduating classes were made at no small expense to the house, but the management will

feel amply repaid if the Educational number of the EVANGELIST will appeal to and touch many hearts as it did the author of the above letter. May the Lord bless the dear sister and prosper her in material and spiritual things, and may she live to see the day when her self-sacrifice in behalf of the college will yield richly and abundantly thru the blessed ministries of those who have gone out from the school. "Go thou and do likewise."

Brief Notes

Public conscience is not dead. It simply needs to be aroused on some of these things in order to stop them. It has been amazing that tender hearted women have so long gratified pride at the expense of the heartless massacre of so many thousands of our sweetest and brightest birds. The beautiful aegrets of the south have been the special victims of this cruelty, but in all parts of the country the slaughter has gone on.

A knowledge of the methods of capture and securing of plumage makes one turn with horror and disgust from a bat so adorned. They who thus attract attention to themselves only call attention to their silly pride and heartless indifference to suffering. Such a spirit shows itself in prize-fighting and kindred sports among men. Thank God sentiment is turning against it. Let the work go on and on.

At a confederate reunion on Decoration day, friendly greetings from a gathering of northern soldiers was enthusiastically reciprocated in spite of the objection of one man. The old spirit of sectional hatred so cursed from the beginning is now almost gone. The civil war emphasized the brotherhood of America, and the Cuban war the brotherhood of humanity. It remains to make the principles a full reality in the life of the world.

For some time past the Audubon Society, an organization for the protection of birds, has been endeavoring to secure the passage of the Lacy bill in Congress. It was so strict that it prohibited the wearing of wild bird plumage as apparel. The milliner's association fearing the passage of the bill have agreed with the Audubon Society that if they will not urge the passage of the bill, they in turn will refrain from using the plumage of any birds in America. This will probably be carried out and will mark a great advance in humanity.

A high school in Chicago has been removed because, being near a medical college, there was too much flirtation between the two schools. In some other places there has been a reaction against co education in the preparatory schools. It works well in the higher institutions, but for immature minds the temptations of too promiscuous a life become real dangers. There is a "giddy period" in the lives of both boys and girls, and this period especially should not be left to the allurements of free and easy association.

The bubonic plague is at our doors. In the rush of humanity up and down the world, who knows how soon it may be carried to the interior? The circulation of men thru the arteries of the world's traffic has become so universal and enormous that whether we will or not, we must be interested in conditions in every part of the world. Selfish, if not Christian, interests must at last cause the clearing up of the slums of the world from which spread all manner of disease both physical and moral. Even so Let Thy kingdom come.

A western R. R. Co. proposes to donate to Pres. Kruger and his followers a tract of thousands of acres of land in Colorado. The Dutch may not be so successful as the British in colonizing and developing South Africa, but the U. S. can well stand a few,